Dear editor,

My name is Jonathan Freeman, I have recently returned from Europe where I honorably served my country fighting the fascist forces of Hitler. I have seen the horrors of fascism up close and personal. I am ashamed to say that the situation in this state is hardly better than those we fought against in Europe. In Europe my status as an American soldier, a liberator of Europe, allowed me to walk proud amongst those whom I had helped to free. I was afforded respect and dignity by the many peoples of Europe and my fellow soldiers. In the great state of Alabama I am called nigger and told by half-witted 16 year olds where I am allowed to eat lunch, the same delinquents refuse to move even though I am forced to use a cane because of the injuries I sustained defending America from Hitler and the Fascists.

Even the Veteran’s Affairs Administration has seen fit to deny me the duly appointed benefits given to me by the congress of the United States of America under the G.I. Bill. How is it that the government can so readily accept my blood when it is spilled on the battlefield but then claim that the willingness to spill my blood is not worthy of the benefits given to others for the same willingness to sacrifice. Not that it would matter much, even if I could get the money together to buy a house from the VA or someplace else, the real estate agent, likely some good ol boy who managed to skip out on his god given duty to defend the world from the horrors of fascism because his daddy’s got connections in Montgomery, is going to tell me that I’ve got to keep myself in the colored parts lest I upset the local neighborhood associations. He’ll assure me that its not that nobody wants me there and that those folks sure do appreciate my service and all, it’s just that they’re worried about their housing values you know? Its not just vets, there are plenty of colored folks who were good enough to build the tanks and planes that killed Hitler but can’t get jobs in those same factories now that the war’s over.

Now I didn’t just write this letter to complain about it, I got some ideas on how we here in the great state of Alabama can go about fixing this affront to god and man that we call segregation. Don’t get me wrong, I don’t expect things to change over night, god has always seen fit to make pig headedness an integral part of the human condition. It may well take generations to get these ideas out of our national fabric, but we need to start with the children. If we do nothing but integrate the schools, treat the children as equals and allow them to see each other being treated as equal eventually they will perceive themselves as equal and then we can finally start to get rid of this nonsense at the most basic level. We can speed this up by removing the public signs of inequality the more our children see whites and coloreds interacting with each other the sooner they can stop worrying about this silliness and the whole country can get around to destroying those godless communists.